

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

PROPOSED RESIDENTS PARKING ZONE and the EXTENSION OF SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR RESTRICTIONS - WANSBECK ROAD, ASHINGTON 18th April 2016

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the proposed parking restrictions and the extension of School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) on Wansbeck Road in Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. It is recommended that as a result of the consultation exercise the residents parking zone should **not** be introduced on Wansbeck Road in Ashington as proposed.
2. It is recommended that School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) be extended on Wansbeck Road in Ashington as proposed.

Key Issues

1. This area has been subject to indiscriminate parking over a long period of time, causing congestion and traffic safety concerns, primarily at peak school times.
2. Residents experience difficulties in parking in front of their properties.
3. The Scheme was to be funded and supported by Councillor Lynne Grimshaw
4. Safety concerns regarding parents parking directly outside the school causing obstruction and congestion

Report Author

Terry Luck - Programmes Officer (Highway Safety)

(01670) 622588

Terry.Luck@northumberland.gov.uk

BACKGROUND

1. Concerns have been identified to Councillor Grimshaw by residents on a number of occasions with regard to the indiscriminate parking in the area
2. It was proposed to introduce Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) in this area
3. This would help reduce congestion and improve traffic flow

CONSULTATION

4. This proposal was the subject of a consultation exercise, conducted on the 10th February 2016. This involved the delivery of a consultation letter to 30 residents and 24 statutory consultees, including the emergency services and various disabled and transport associations/organisations. A plan showing the proposals is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
5. The consultation exercise ended on 11th March 2016 and responses were received from 16 consultees, with 8 in favour and 6 against and 2 neither for nor against the proposed measures. A summary of the responses is attached as Appendix B.

COMMENTS

6. The results of the consultation showed a small majority of residents were in favour of the proposal, however, overall there was insufficient support.
7. Comments indicated rejection of the proposal for a range of reasons including, it would affect church attendance, unwillingness to pay for a permit and the School needs to resolve the problem instead of the residents being restricted.
8. Councillor Grimshaw was notified of the results of the consultation and confirms that based on the evidence presented, she does not wish to proceed with the proposal. However, Councillor Grimshaw and officers will continue to monitor the area and take forward information received via the Directory of Requests where appropriate

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. In view of the results of the consultation it is recommended not to proceed with the proposal to introduce a Residents parking Zone.
10. It is recommended that the School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines) be extended in line with Northumberland County Council policy on road safety outside of schools
11. The Council has the power to hold a public inquiry before making any traffic regulation order. Such an inquiry might enable disputed evidence to be tested under cross-examination and the need for an order to be critically examined by an independent inspector. In this particular case, officers believe that the extensive consultation process and involvement with interested parties, means that such an inquiry is unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and it is therefore recommended that an inquiry is not held.

File References

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Appendix Index

- Appendix A – Consultation - Copy of Consultation Letter
- Appendix B - Consultation - Summary of Responses

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Funded through the Members' Local Improvement Programme allocation for Councillor Lynne Grimshaw
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Introduction of Parking Restrictions
Crime & Disorder	Indiscriminate parking and obstruction
Customer Considerations	Scheme is anticipated to improve safety and traffic flow in the area
Sustainability	None
Consultation	Ashington Town Council, the emergency services, all affected residents and interested road user organisations were consulted together with the County Councillor for the area.
Wards	Bothal

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Cabinet Member or Officer(s):

Director of Local Services and Housing

Subject:

Proposed 'Resident Parking Zone' and the extension
School Keep Clear restrictions (Yellow Zig Zag Lines)

Consultation

16 Responses

8 For

6 Against

2 Neither for nor against

Decision Taken:

- a) Not to introduce parking restrictions as proposed.
- b) To extend existing School Keep Clear restrictions
(Yellow Zig Zag Lines)

Signature of Director



Date

23/4/16

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Occupier

Our Ref: HO135684
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Terry Luck
Direct Line: 01670 624128

E-mail: HighwaysProgramme@northumberland.gov.uk
Wednesday 10th February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed 'Resident Parking Zone' and the extension of School Keep Clear Markings
Wansbeck Road, Ashington

For some time the parking issues, traffic flow and traffic safety caused by indiscriminate / double parking at school times have concerned many residents of Wansbeck Road. Residents have previously been consulted on various proposals to alleviate these problems, but they have failed to meet with the approval of the majority of residents who responded.

At the request of residents on Wansbeck Road, and with the support of your Local Council Members, Lynne Grimshaw, officers of the County Council are now considering the introduction of a 'Residents Permit Parking Zone' on Wansbeck Road, details can be found on the attached plan.

Signs at the entry points to the area would dictate where Resident Permit Parking is in operation. Repeater signs would also be required throughout the zone. Bays would not be provided within the zone as they are not required for this type of restriction. To make this scheme enforceable, residents will be asked to purchase Resident Parking Permits. (Currently £15 a year per permit equivalent to less than 29p per week). A maximum of 2 permits can be provided per household with one permit reserved for residents and one for visitor parking.

In addition the existing 'School keep clear' markings (Zig-Zag Line) will be extended.

I am therefore writing in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1998 (as amended) to formally ask for your comments on the proposal to introduce a Residents Permit Parking Zone and the extension of School Keep Clear Markings at Wansbeck Road in Ashington as shown on the attached plan. Please be aware that sign locations are not shown, the plan merely highlights the extents of the zone.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that all comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments, but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a Decision Report, to the Executive Director of Local Services and may be available for public inspection. The closing date for any comments you may wish

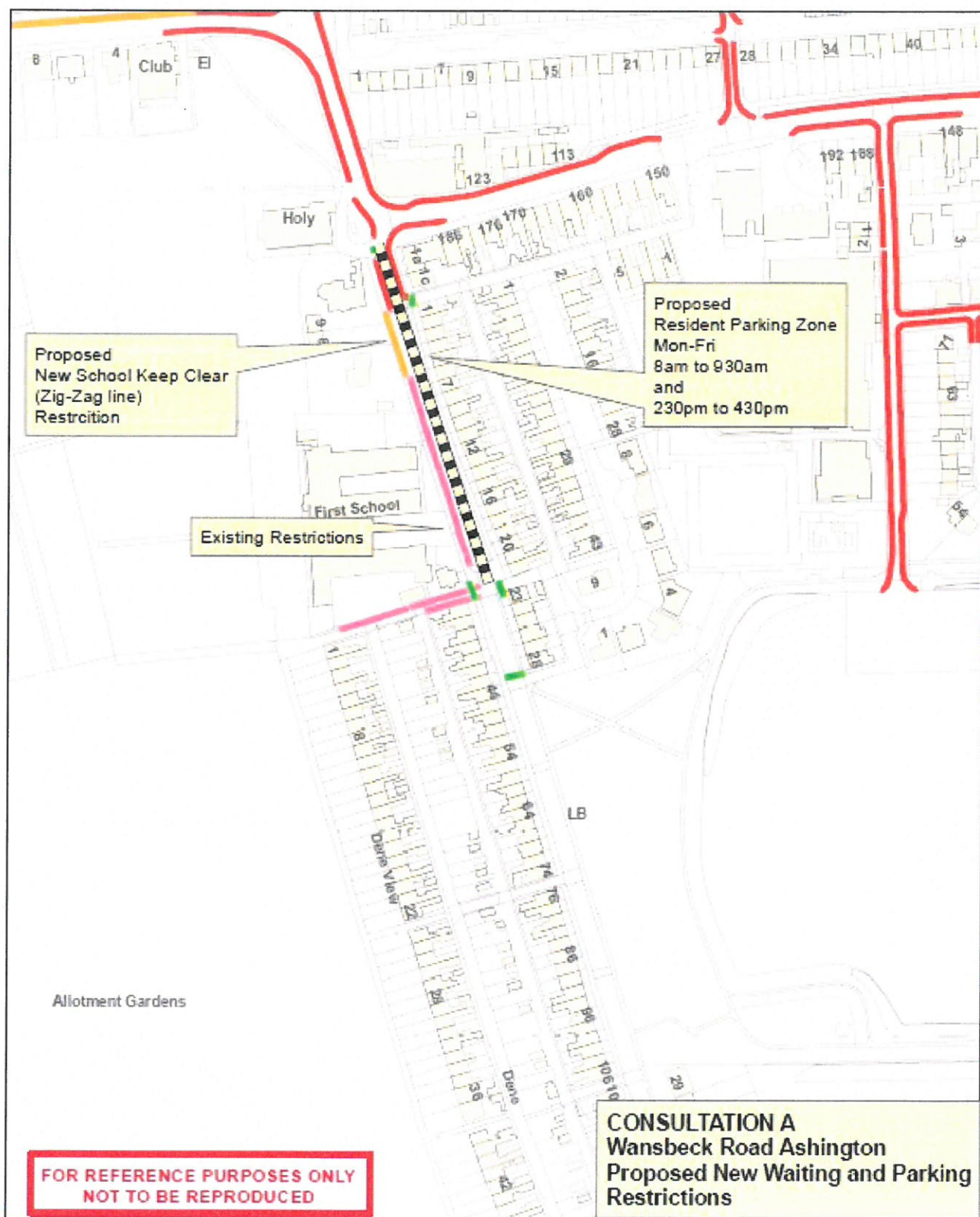
to make is **Friday 11th March 2016**. If you wish to respond to this consultation online, please visit the web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk/>.

I would urge you to take the opportunity to comment on this important matter as any decision taken will be based upon the responses received from residents who take time to return the consultation form.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Terry Luck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Luck
Programmes Officer



Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

**Network Management
Information System**

Title:

Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Newcastle
Northumberland NE1 2DF
Tel: 01670 533000

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Drn:

Date:

Scale:

Feb 2016

APPENDIX B

FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
1			no comments
		1	The extension of the School Keep Clear is a very good benefit to the street. I have concerns over the resident's scheme. I think that people's behaviour will only push them to the next block of houses (37- 74) which will increase the complaints from this section of residents. Drivers will start parking in already congested back lanes behind 1 -22 Wansbeck Road. Every time we visit this school someone complains about the parking in the surrounding streets and lanes. I think blanket coverage of the area would resolve the problem and make people use the former sports centre car park. I think this needs to be looked at. It is also my opinion that permits should be 08.00 – 17.00. Residents are paying for them so the area should be available all day for them. We are merely moving the problem to a different section of the road in my opinion.
1			I fully support this proposal. My son has disabilities and it is nearly a daily occurrence that I can't get outside or even near my house. I have on an occasion had to phone the council as people have left their vehicles outside my house for days on end without returning.
	1		For some reason over the past few months the parking situation seems to have eased greatly, with school staff now utilising parts of the school yard for parking. Suggest perhaps old leisure centre car park could also be used? Feel it is discrimination against residents having to pay yearly fees in order to access parking outside their own homes. Especially given that it has always been (in my opinion) the school staff that has been the problem. I agree it can get very congested with parents picking up and dropping off at set times, but this tends to clear within half an hour. As said above, long term staff parking was the issue. Maximum of 2 permits per household would not be practical in our situation.
		1	I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we may be required to use the above road(s) for access and egress in the event of being activated to attend an emergency call, or to convey patients to hospital for out-patient appointments. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
1			Although I support this proposal I feel that this will cause more problems in the back lane between Wansbeck Road and Morven Terrace. At School times this back lane is used as a car park for families taking their children to school. Some days it is impossible to get our cars out of our garages and on a few occasions I have had to get taxis to Doctor or Hospital appointments as I have had my car blocked in by inconsiderate parking,
1			Yes I fully support the parking zone proposals however the road outside house numbers 20-23 will have to be put back to the original layout and the chicane will have to be removed to allow the residence of these properties to be able to park otherwise there will be no room. Staff from the school will have to be informed and maybe recommend a car sharing scheme.
1			I fully support the implementation of permit parking. However I feel that the restrictions need to be implemented across the full day 8am to 6pm. I appreciated that the core school hours are covered with your current proposal however the school is also a nursery and there are people coming and going at all times of the day as there must be morning and afternoon sessions. I really hope that if this is put in place that it is properly monitored by a traffic warden as otherwise I feel that many parents would just take the risk parking up and nipping across.
	1		We do not agree with the proposed resident parking zone fee. Why should I as a resident pay for a short period of time during the day because of a problem not created by ourselves. There is a disabled car park at the old leisure centre lazy parents create problems by not using this facility. This should be enforced. There has recently been a holiday break at the school there were no parking issues at all during this time proof the problem is parents and teachers. I do not park my car at the front of my property I garage my car at the rear. I refuse to pay for a permit. I propose still make the resident parking zone but with no fee obtain the cost from parents who must use the leisure centre car park. The extension of the school keep clear is agreeable.
	1		We support permitted resident parking but with a time restriction e.g. 8am - 5pm. The church already has issues with parking at school run times which has an effect for service and funerals where parishioners can't get parked around the church. This will increase if a parking zone goes ahead. Throughout the year there are services for example on a evening or Sunday that requires extra parking around the streets in the local vicinity. The church is for all he community and we have concert on an evening through the week as well as on a weekend. These would have problems with parking. there are a lot of elderly people who attend these services and concerts. Normal services the parishioner's car share. We agree that during school times safety is seriously an issue but I feel we also need to look at the community and the churches issues as well. Could restricted timed parking zone suit more people?
1			I would like to make a suggestion to make this more palatable for the school. The improvements outside this school have been considerable over recent years, and the school has worked closely with the council and particularly Cllr Grimshaw to improve the safety of our children - we are extremely grateful and will continue our close relationship. I would like you to consider offering another 7 (ideally 10) additional permits to the school. The proposal offers no parking space near to the school for the school staff. Arriving between 6.45am and 8.15am, and the majority normally leaving before 5pm, they occupy vacant spaces currently left by the residents during the day whilst they are working and therefore do not contribute significantly (if at all) to the congestion. Further, they do not leave many empty gaps for parents to use to nip in and just drop off and then try cross the road with their child (Ren) in that key area. The car park in the school is small, full and cannot be accessed (or exited) during the school day between 8.15am and 3.30pm as a safety precaution for the little learner's parents who need to walk through it. I have photographs, as you will have courtesy of the survey (thank you!), of spaces left during the day. During holidays,

		<p>when residents still work, the vast majority of spaces are vacant. Asking staff to park elsewhere, including the old leisure centre car park during the hours of darkness on their own etc. may well demand additional security/safety measures re: the route. There are not many staff who arrive later than 8.15 (and if they do they arrive in daylight) so 7 permits would be helpful: myself as principal, our special educational needs coordinator (SENCo), business manager and two vice principals and two lead practitioners regularly are between the site and are likely therefore to be unable to park in the small staff car park. Consequently, we park across the road (and by necessity further up Wansbeck Road during the busy parent arrival /departure times). The congestion times are simply between 8.30 and 9 and 2.45 and 3.30 during the school days, which are 195 out of 365 during the year. They are not a permanent requirement. I am happy to support your suggested times on your proposal. As you will be aware, the school has offered to host any consultation meetings. I would therefore ask that the school be offered 7 (ideally 10) permits which in my view would complement rather than conflict with the hours residents use during term time.</p>
	1	<p>Not as it is now to little. Don't you think a camera at the chicane would solve more problems and maybe it would educate drivers they are in a 20 speed limit and not brands hatch. Believe me it would make a fortune and the council and 22 householders would not have to pay because school staff are the worst offenders.</p>
	1	<p>As a resident I don't think that I should have to pay to park outside my own home of 32 years. This is a problem caused by a facility funded by Northumberland County Council. The council has encouraged and funded the school to have early morning breakfast clubs, wrap round care until after 6pm at night. Recently introduced the new provision for 2 year olds, yet more increased traffic. The parking problems are caused by parents and teaching staff who use the street as an overflow car park due to the inadequate parking on site at the school. This has never been addressed despite many complaints to the school from residents due to staff parking all day from early morning till possibly 6pm at night and even later on parent evenings.</p> <p>The idea of a permit parking scheme seems expensive and restrictive, bearing in mind many households have two cars or more depending on how many older children live with their parents who could also have cars. There is also no provision for residents work vans, company vehicles etc.</p> <p>Unfortunately we have had to endure the increased traffic problems created by this county councils facility and now it wants us to pay for the privilege to park outside our own homes .</p> <p>The problems are mainly caused by parents and staff however this proposal only seems to penalize the long suffering residents.</p> <p>The idea of resident only parking between the hours of 8am and 6pm would be a feasible solution but it should not be at the expense of the local homeowners who have had all the hassle living with this problem and lets be fair this proposal would only move the problem elsewhere, probably into our back lanes.</p>
	1	<p>Councillor Grimshaw told me via email a year's free trial would go ahead first. What has happened to this? 3 1/2 hours of parking per day is a disgrace, we are basically paying to ensure safety at busy time!!! This is all to benefit the school and we as residents have been used, but you have left no other option than agree and vote for the proposed consultation. Utter disgrace!! Lost votes from this address in future local and general elections.</p>
	1	<p>We agree with residential parking not on the stated time limits. Our problem is with the school - staff parking outside our home from before 7.30am until sometimes after 5pm. We do not have a parking problem at weekends or school holidays. It is quite ironic that the residents have to pay £15 per year for a permit, when it is the school who should have the parking problem. In fact there is a large car park, not 5 minutes' walk, at the now discussed leisure centre. Surely this can be used by school staff which would eliminate the parking problems.</p>
	1	<p>I am pleased regarding the issues for parking at Wansbeck Road but the proposed times don't stop the school workers and teachers from parking from 8am till 5pm plus.</p>
8	6	2